

1 **1. (Currently Amended).** A golf ball retrieval tool comprising
2 an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis;
3 a tool having
4 a body coupled to one end of the handle and extending substantially parallel the
5 longitudinal axis;
6 a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially
7 perpendicular to the body;
8 a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the
9 shelf and the body, wherein the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-cornered support
10 for a golf ball;
11 a plurality of prongs disposed on and extending from the shelf opposite the backstop;
12 and
13 coupling means for coupling the tool to the handle.

1 **2.** Canceled.

1 **3. (Currently Amended).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein
2 the prongs extend coplanar with the shelf opposite the backstop.

1 **4. (Currently Amended).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means
2 comprises
3 a tang extending longitudinally from ~~the proximate~~ an end of the body proximate the handle;
4 and
5 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining a slot adapted
6 to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

1 **5. (Original).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 4 wherein
2 the plug is adapted to receive the tang in a plurality of angular positions about the
3 longitudinal axis.

1 **6. (Currently Amended).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 4 wherein the plug further
2 comprises
3 a cap having a dimension larger than an ~~outside~~ inside dimension of the shaft.

1 **7. (Original).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means
2 comprises
3 a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body to the
4 handle.

1 **8. (Original).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means
2 comprises
3 a plate disposed on a side of, and oriented substantially perpendicular to, the tool body and
4 adapted to contact an end of the handle; and
5 a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body to the
6 handle.

1 **9. (Original).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 8 wherein the plate comprises
2 a yoke having a mouth opening open toward the handle and adapted to receive the end of the
3 handle within the mouth.

1 10. **(Original).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein
2 the backstop is disposed on an end of the shelf a spaced distance apart from the body to
3 define a gap adapted to receive storage means for the tool.

1 11. **(Original).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein
2 the handle comprises a golf club having a head and a grip on opposite ends of a shaft; and
3 the tool removably couples to the grip.

1 12. **(Original).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 11 wherein the coupling means
2 comprises
3 a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and
4 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining an slot adapted
5 to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

1 13. **(Currently Amended).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 12 wherein the plug further
2 comprises
3 a cap having a dimension larger than an ~~outside~~ inside dimension of the shaft.

1 **14. (Original).** A golf ball retrieval tool comprising
2 an elongated handle having
3 a longitudinal axis and an inside surface;
4 a plug coupled to the inside surface;
5 a tool head having
6 a body coupled to and extending from the plug;
7 a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially
8 perpendicular to the body;
9 a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the
10 shelf and the body, whereby the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-cornered support
11 for a golf ball; and
12 two tapered prongs disposed on the shelf and extending from the shelf opposite the
13 backstop.

1 **15. (Currently Amended).** An improved method of retrieving a golf ball, the method comprising
2 providing a golf ball retrieval tool having
3 an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis extending between two opposite ends;
4 a tool adapted to couple to the handle and having
5 a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;
6 a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle substantially perpendicular to
7 the body; and
8 a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to
9 both the shelf and the body a spaced distance apart from the body to define a gap adapted to receive
10 storage means for the tool ~~wherein the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-cornered~~
11 ~~support for a golf ball;~~ then
12 coupling the tool to the handle; then
13 grasping the end of the handle opposite the tool; then
14 lowering the tool into a cup containing a golf ball; then
15 positioning the shelf near a lower portion of the golf ball; then
16 tilting the handle to urge the golf ball onto the shelf; then
17 raising the handle upward to retrieve the ball from the cup.

1 **16. (Original).** The improved method of retrieving a golf ball of Claim 15 wherein the step
2 of coupling the tool to the handle further comprises
3 providing
4 a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and
5 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle and surrounding and defining a slot
6 adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang; then
7 inserting the tang into the slot; then
8 pressing the tool towards the handle along the longitudinal axis of the handle.

1 **17. (Original).** The improved method of retrieving a golf ball of claim 15 wherein the step
2 of coupling the tool to the handle comprises
3 providing
4 a shank disposed on the body and extending longitudinally away from the body;
5 a yoke disposed on a side of the tool body and having an opening oriented away from
6 the shelf and adapted to receive an end of the handle; and
7 a strap coupled to the shank; then
8 positioning the tool with the shank adjacent the handle with the end of the handle received
9 within the opening of the yoke, then
10 wrapping the strap around the handle to secure the tool to the handle.

18. (Currently Amended). An improved method of repairing a golf ball mark, the method comprising

- providing a golf ball retrieval tool having
 - an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis extending between two opposite ends;
 - a tool adapted to couple to the handle and having
 - a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;
 - a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle and substantially perpendicular to the body;
 - a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the shelf and the body; and
 - a plurality of prongs disposed on and extending from the shelf opposite the backstop; then
 - coupling the tool to the handle; then
 - grasping the end of the handle opposite the tool; then
 - positioning the prongs against the ground near the ball mark such that the prongs ~~may~~ are adapted to penetrate the ground beneath a bottom of the ball mark; then
 - applying pressure to the backstop to urge the prongs to penetrate the ground are under the ball mark; then
 - rotating the handle to lift the prongs and elevate the bottom of the ball mark.

1 **19. (Original).** The improved method of repairing a golf ball mark of Claim 18 wherein the
2 step of coupling the tool to the handle further comprises;
3 providing
4 a tang extending longitudinally from the body; and
5 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle and surrounding and defining a slot
6 adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang; then
7 inserting the tang into the slot; then
8 pressing the tool towards the handle along the longitudinal axis of the handle.

1 **20. (Currently Amended).** The improved method of repairing a golf ball mark of Claim 18
2 wherein the step of coupling the tool to the handle further comprises;
3 providing
4 a shank disposed on and extending longitudinally away from the body;
5 a yoke disposed on a side of the body and having an opening oriented away from the
6 shelf, the opening adapted to receive one end of the handle; and
7 and a strap coupled to a shank; then
8 positioning the tool with the shank adjacent the handle with the end of the handle received
9 within the opening of the yoke; then
10 wrapping the strap around the handle to secure the tool to the handle.

21. **(Currently Amended).** An improved method of preventing a golf club grip from contacting the ground during use, the golf club having a shaft having a longitudinal axis extending between two opposite ends, a head on one end and a grip on the opposite end, the method comprising

- providing a golf ball retrieval tool adapted to couple to the grip and having
 - a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;
 - a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle and substantially perpendicular to the body;
 - a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the shelf and the body a spaced distance apart from the body to define a gap adapted to receive storage means for the tool; and
- coupling means for coupling the tool to the grip; then
- coupling the tool to the grip; then
- grasping the golf club by the grip and laying the head onto the ground; then
- laying the golf club down substantially parallel to the ground until the tool contacts the ground whereby a gap remains between the grip and the ground; then
- retrieving the golf club from the ground by inserting lifting means between the grip and the ground and lifting the grip.

1 22. (New). A golf ball retrieval tool comprising
2 an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis;
3 a tool having
4 a body coupled to one end of the handle and extending substantially parallel the
5 longitudinal axis;
6 a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially
7 perpendicular to the body;
8 a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to both the
9 shelf and the body a spaced distance apart from the body to define a gap between the backstop and
10 the body adapted to receive storage means for the tool; and
11 coupling means for coupling the tool to the handle.

1 23. (New). The retrieval tool according to Claim 22 wherein the coupling means comprises
2 a tang extending longitudinally from an end of the body proximate the handle; and
3 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining a slot adapted
4 to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

1 24. (New). The retrieval tool according to Claim 22 wherein the coupling means comprises
2 a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body to the
3 handle.

1 25. **(New).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 22 wherein the coupling means comprises
2 a plate disposed on a side of, and oriented substantially perpendicular to, the tool body and
3 adapted to contact an end of the handle; and
4 a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body to the
5 handle.

1 26. **(New).** The retrieval tool according to Claim 25 wherein the plate comprises
2 a yoke having a mouth opening open toward the handle and adapted to receive the end of the
3 handle within the mouth.